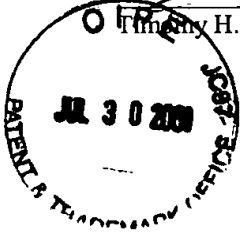


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Timothy H. Van Dyke, Patent Attorney



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Bianchi *et al.*
Application No: 09/782,594
Filed: 2/12/2001
Title: ASSEMBLED IMPLANT
Docket No: RTI-112R

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

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Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-25, without prejudice.

Remarks

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any subject matter affected by this cancellation in copending or later filed divisional or continuation applications. Reconsideration and further examination is